

## FALL 2020 CONVENING AGENDA & SESSION PLANS

**Theme:** Visions for Practice-Responsive Research

### External objectives

- Attendees have opportunities to build and strengthen their professional network
- Attendees leave with new knowledge of the latest insights and questions from research and practice on how equitable learning environments shape students' mindsets, well-being, and learning
- Researchers leave with strategies for conducting rigorous interdisciplinary research, while being responsive to the many impacts of COVID-19 (e.g., on individuals, communities, K-16 institutions, academic careers, and empirical research)

### Internal objective

- Build buy-in around MSN's evolving strategic priorities and begin to advance a vision for how SERN scholars will be part of this journey

### Agenda - Wednesday, November 18th (all times at ET)

2:00pm - 2:30pm	Welcome & Icebreakers
2:30pm - 3:15pm	Exploring Practice-Responsive Research
3:15pm - 3:25pm	Break
3:25pm - 4:25pm	K-12 Teachers & Classrooms Lightning Presentations
4:25pm - 4:50pm	Small Group Feedback Sessions for K-12 Teachers & Classrooms PIs
4:50pm - 5:00pm	Transition and exit ticket
5:00pm - 5:45pm	Happy Hour (optional but encouraged)

### Agenda - Thursday, November 19th

2:00pm - 2:15pm	Welcome & Icebreakers (abbreviated)
2:15pm - 2:45pm	Research Resources to Support Practice-Responsive Research
2:45pm - 4:05pm	K-12 Teachers & Classrooms Lightning Presentations
4:05pm - 4:15pm	Break
4:15pm - 4:45pm	Small Group Feedback Sessions for K-12 Teachers & Classrooms PIs
4:45pm - 5:00pm	Thank You and Evaluations

**Commented [1]:** These objectives speak to a variety of incoming goals and priorities for attendees, from building their networks to gaining knowledge to learning about different strategies for how to conduct research.

**Commented [2]:** Although this objective was not communicated publicly to attendees, it was important to have an internal objective for SERN staff to keep in mind through event design and facilitation.

**Commented [3]:** In our attendee-facing agendas, we typically would not publish session times in order to give the planning/facilitation team flexibility in case any session needed to run long or otherwise needed to be adjusted.

**Commented [4]:** We would collect exit ticket data on multiple days of a convening to ensure we heard from all attendees (e.g., if someone could only attend one day) and to potentially make mid-course adjustments if needed.

**Commented [5]:** For this virtual convening, we hosted a virtual happy hour on the Remo platform (given the proliferation of virtual events, there are a number of platforms that are designed for this purpose).

Connecting socially as well has professionally has been an important feature of SERN events and we wanted to be sure to create this space in a virtual setting. For in person events, this might take the form of a cocktail hour and/or seated dinner.

## SESSION PLAN: WELCOME & ICEBREAKERS

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Presenters:** TBD

**Location:** Main Zoom room; breakouts for ice breakers

### Session Agenda:

10 minutes total; 8 minutes for remarks and 2 minutes lag as people join)	<b>Welcome &amp; Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome participants to the Convening</li> <li>• Acknowledge the context we are in and have been operating in with the dual pandemics of systemic racism and the pandemic</li> <li>• Acknowledge who is in the “room”</li> <li>• Share brief updates on MSN strategy</li> </ul>
5 minutes	<b>Orientation to the Convening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss theme of visions of practice-responsive research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Highlight recently developed resources</li> <li>◦ Connect to the K-12 Teachers &amp; Classrooms portfolio and raising relevant questions at the intersection of research and practice/policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brief overview of Convening agenda/arc of learning</li> </ul>
10 minutes	<b>Ice breakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break people into groups of 4 (randomly) for two rounds; ask each group member to take one minute each to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Possible questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is a new habit or skill you have picked up in 2020?</li> <li>▪ What are you excited to learn about today?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5 minutes	<b>Tech, Norms, &amp; Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note we will generally keep people muted unless they are actively presenting; will unmute people for breakouts</li> <li>• Ask people to keep videos on if possible to build our sense of community, but we also understand that you may wish to turn your video off at certain points.</li> <li>• Review other technology</li> <li>• Reiterate off-the-record nature of the convening (e.g., don’t post on social media, don’t screenshot people’s slides, don’t attribute things to people without their permission)</li> </ul>

**Commented [6]:** We have found it to be helpful to preview the arc of learning and how attendees will move through it to help scaffold and sign post the participant experience.

**Commented [7]:** In a virtual setting, hosts can randomly assign group members or can more intentionally curate small group composition (e.g., ensuring a mix of early career scholars, senior scholars, and policy/practice attendees). Other structures can be used to facilitate this kind of mixing in person, from encouraging people to connect with someone they don’t know to providing different colored stickers on the backs of name badges and encouraging them to connect with people with the same or different colored stickers.

**Commented [8]:** These questions provide multiple ways for attendees to connect with one another -- both personally and professionally.

Note how the second question also positions all attendees as learners and can help to signal important points about how people will show up in this space.

**Commented [9]:** For in person events and in facilitation guides for small group breakouts, we have also used this section to include notes about monitoring airtime / “lean in / lean out” to help signal important points about equity of voice.

**Commented [10]:** It is important to signal where and when different sessions might be recorded vs. when they are off the record to ensure attendees understand the context and are able to adapt their remarks as needed.